

Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 H-01 EB-03 ISO-00 NEA-06 /011 W

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P R 070854Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7053

AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

AMCONSUL

KARACHI PRIORITY 1772

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LAMPUR

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 9559

BEIRUT AND BRUSSELS FOR FAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC EAIR (WOOLDRIDGE)

SUBJ: MISSING AIRCRAFT

REFS: A. KARACHI 2025 (NOTAL) B. ISLAMABAD 9546 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY. ODRP PLANE FLEW SEARCH MISSION OCT. 5 WITH MISSING PILOT'S SON AND BROTHER-IN-LAW. TECHNICAL INFORMATION NOW AVAILABLE LEADS TO SPECULATION THAT PLANE COULD HAVE COME DOWN IN WIDE AREA OF PAKISTAN, INDIA OR COME AS FAR NORTH AS KASHMIR. IT IS ALSO A VERY REMOTE POSSIBILITY THAT ACFT COULD HAVE POSSIBLY WANDERED TO UNCLASSIFIED

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THE WEST AS FAR AS AFGHANISTAN.

1. AS MENTIONED REFTEL B, ODRP AIRCRAFT DEPARTED ISLAMABAD 0800 HOURS SATURDAY, OCT 5 ENROUTE TO MULTAN WHERE IT PICKED UP DR. SHOULDERS AND WOOLDRIDGE, BROTHER-IN-LAW AND SON OF MISSING PILOT. AFTERNOON OCT. 5 PLANE FLEW SEARCH MISSION FROM RAHIMYAR KHAN TO INDIAN BORDER AT 1,000 FEET AGL AND THEN FROM RAHIMYAR KHAN TO NAWABSHAH AT SAME ALTITUDE.

2. AIRCRAFT THEN PROCEEDED TO KARACHI WHERE ALL CONCERNED DEBRIEFED. ODRP PERSONNEL REQUESTED CERTAIN INFORMATION FROM DR. SHOULDERS AND WOOLDRIDGE, WHICH THEY HAD TO OBTAIN FROM THE US. THIS INFORMATION WAS GIVEN TO ODRP REPS AT ANOTHER MEETING OCT. 6.

3. TECHNICAL INFORMATION FURNISHED BY SHOULDERS AND WOOLDRIDGE FOLLOWS. A. AIRCRAFT WAS FULLY EQUIPPED WITH ALL RADIO EQUIPMENT REQUIRED FOR PROPOSED FLIGHT.

B. AIRCRAFT WAS EQUIPPED WITH AN AUXILIARY FUEL SYSTEM ENABLING THE AIRCRAFT TO FLY THE PROPOSED ROUTE WITHOUT ANY DIFFICULTY. NOTE: AIRCRAFT WAS EQUIPPED WITH CABIN PRESSURIZATION AND AN AUTO PILOT SYSTEM. AIRCRAFT WAS TWELVE PERCENT OVER GROSS WEIGHT AT TAKE OFF CONFIGURATION.

4. SHOULDERS AND WOOLDRIDGE ALSO STATED THAT PILOT OF MISSING AIRCRAFT HAD FLOWN FIVE HOURS FROM BAHRAIN TO KARACHI SAME DAY THAT HE DEPARTED KARACHI AFTER A FOUR-HOUR FUEL STOP.

5. BASED UPON INFORMATION FURNISHED BY SHOULDERS AND WOOLDRIDGE, ODRP REPS SPECULATE FOLLOWING SEVERAL POSSIBILITIES. A. PILOT FELL ASLEEP AT THE CONTROLS DUE TO FATIGUE. IF SO, AIRCRAFT WOULD HAVE CONTINUED FLIGHT ALONG THE LAST PROPOSED ROUTE OF FLIGHT UNTIL FUEL WAS EXHAUSTED. AIRCRAFT COULD HAVE WANDERED DUE TO LACK OF SIGNAL BY FLYING OUT OF RANGE OF THE NAVIGATION AID SELECTED AND THEN FLOWN UNTIL FUEL EXHAUSTION. IN SUCH CASE PLANE COULD HAVE COME DOWN IN WIDE AREA OF CENTRAL OR NORTHERN PAKISTAN UP TO APPROXIMATELY KASHMIR
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OR IN NEIGHBORING INDIA. THERE IS ALSO REMOTE POSSIBILITY THAT PLANE COULD HAVE WANDERED INTO AFGHANISTAN. B. AIRCRAFT COULD HAVE BEEN DESTROYED BY EXPLOSION CAUSED BY VPOSSIBLE LEAKING AUXILIARY FUEL CELL MOUNTED INTERNALLY. C. POSSIBLE CABIN DEPRESSURIZATION MAY HAVE CAUSED PILOT TO BLACK OUT WITHOUT ENOUGH TIME TO RECOVER TO AVOID ACCIDENT.

6. WE EMPHASIZE THAT PARA FIVE STRICTLY SPECULATION
BASED UPON AVAILABLE INFORMATION.

7. IN COORDINATION WITH AMCONGEN KARACHI, EMBASSY IS
ARRANGING FOR APPROPRIATE PUBLICITY THROUGHOUT PAKISTAN
CONCERNING MISSING AIRCRAFT. SEPTTEL FOLLOWS.

8. FOR KABUL: AS YOU HAVE NOT BEEN ON PREVIOUS DISTRIBUTION,
WE ARE REPEATING KARACHI 2025, ISLAMABAD 9546 AND
NEW DELHI, 12987, THE INITIAL CABLE TO ISLAMABAD REPORTING
PLANE MISSING. END TO KABUL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MISSING AIRCRAFT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ISLAMA09559
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740283-0749
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741068/aaaacfsi.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SCSE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. KARACHI 2025 (NOTAL) B. ISLAMABAD
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAR 2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <24 JUL 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MISSING AIRCRAFT
TAGS: CASC, EAIR, (WOOLDRIDGE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005